

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
 AF&AM
 Post Office Box 150727
 Austin, TX. 78715-0727

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THE BEACON

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
 Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858

Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreeklodge220.org>



March 2018

Lodge Officers 2017 - 2018

WM: **William L. Lewis**
 SW: **Christopher R. Dawson**
 JW: **David "Tide" Williams**
 Treas: **Dennis C. Kestner, PM**
 Sec: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**
 Chap: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
 SD: **Orlando Perez**
 JD: **Ernest Owney**
 SS: **Richard Alonso**
 JS: **Jeromy W. Odom**
 Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**
 MC: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**
 Mus: **Wilfredo "JR" Vera**
 Tiler: **Jeff J. Carroll, PM**

Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters

1969- Tommie J. Conner
 1970- Ralph L. Cearley
 1974- Jimmy M. Hodges
 1977- Roy L. Hamor
 1978- Bobby J. Doherty
 1980- Ronald B. Norwood
 1981- Howard D. Hall
 1982- Alan L. Karotkin
 1984- Matias H. Ruiz
 1987- Elliott R. Wilson
 1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
 1989- Dennis C. Kestner
 1991- Ronnie H. Lee
 1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff
 1994- Walter H. Argall
 1995- Javier R. Gonzalez
 1996- Kenneth P. Wood
 1997- William S. Lear
 1998- John W. Turner

Living Affiliated Past Masters

1999- James F. Keese
 2000- Walter E. Sanders
 2001- Jonathan D. Walker
 2002- Robert L. Roda
 2003- Ricky J. Tindell
 2004- Elijo Arjona, Jr.
 2005- Hamilton B. Carter
 2006- Russell M. Tidwell II
 2007- Michael E. Sanders
 2008- Daniel E. Barber
 2009- Dale L. Flatt
 2010- Tony M. Ramirez
 2011- Dennis J. Ross
 2012- Adrian W. Edmundson
 2013- Raul J. Scully
 2014- Ben B. Rauschke
 2015- Curtis A. Gilgan
 2016- Jeff J. Carroll



March Birthdays

Michael E. Sanders 1; Ronnie W. Moreau 2; Charles R. Caudill, Gregory A. Tarpley, Carlton L. Edwards, J. Roland Brown, L.J. Brister 3; Roy L. Hamor, Jr. 4; John E. Altis, Keith W. Caron 6; Glen R. Broddrick. Gene C. Payne 7; Troy J. Shugart 11; Robert C. Cowan, Walter H. Argall, Ferril C. Smith, Jonathan D. Walker, James C. Wells 13; Willis C. Woods 14; Geraldine Bailey 16; Charles P. Foreman 17; Omar V. Greene III, Richard N. Benoit 18; James M. King 19; Kenneth R. Lind 20; Gary A. Crain 21; John T. Compton, Stanley A. Penner 24; Edward A. Miller 27; James L. Younger 28; Robert E. Allen, Michael J. Brode 29; William B. Tamminga, James E. Sterling 30; Fransisco Reyes, Sr. 31.

Masonic Birthdays; raised in March (year)

James T. Harris 54; Wilbert H. Else 60; Carl R. Drost, Ronnie W. Moreau 63; L.J. Brister 65; Clifford C. Cody 66; Dennie J. Jackson 67; James L. Brown 71; Jeffrey L. Wilbur; Alan L. Karotkin 76; Armand C. Ablanado, John C. Wood 79; Joe D. Beaver 83; Charles A. Snoddy, Omar V. Green III, Jimmy L. Preece, Billy R. Seguin 86; Terry D. Phillips 87; Stanley A. Mitchusson 88; William R. Harrison 90; Paul D. Pennybacker 93; Walter E. Sanders, Randall J. Storm, Michael J. Brode, Michael W. Carter 94; Jeffrey L. Dotterer 95; Jason S. Lyde 97; Steven N. Moore, Dale L. Flatt 02; Jonathan L. Ramirez 07; Brett M. Chandler-Finch 09; Wilfredo Vera 14.

*And God said, "Let there be light,"
 and there was light!*

*Happy Birthday, Brothers!
 May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more!*

Stated Meeting

**First Thursday
 March 1st, 2018**

Master Mason's Lodge

Family Night

**Meal at 6:30 p.m.
 Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

Beacon Editor: **David A. Karhi**
Breakfast Socials: **Ernest Owney**
Building: **David "Tide" Williams**
Cemetery: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**
Communications: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
Esoteric Instruction: **Orlando Perez**
Funeral: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**
Golden Trowel: **Jeff J. Carroll, PM**
Historian: **H. Max Fisher**
Hospital: **Carl H. Robinson**
Ill and Visitation: **William L. Lewis**
Social Activities: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
Vanguard: **David "Tide" Williams**

Greetings from the East

At the February stated meeting, we received Right Worshipful Raul Javier Scully, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District Number 50 of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. We also recognized Right Worshipful Troy James Shugart, District Deputy Grand Master “at large” of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. It is a great honor that two of our faithful brothers are serving as District Deputy Grand Masters. We also recognized other Grand Lodge appointees from Onion Creek Lodge for District 50. Brother Dennis James Ross, PM is serving as District Education Officer and Robert Louis Eschenburg, PM is serving as District Communications Officer.

March is a significant month in Texas Masonic history for several reasons. It was in March of 1835 that the first Masonic meeting was held in Texas for the purpose of establishing a lodge in Texas. Six Masons met under an oak tree near the town of Brazoria. They applied to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to form and open a Lodge. A dispensation was issued and later a charter. This first Texas lodge was called Holland Lodge No. 36. It was named after then Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, John Henry Holland. Anson Jones was the first Worshipful Master of Holland Lodge No. 36, now Holland Lodge No. 1. The charter was brought by John M. Allen and given to Anson Jones just prior to the battle of San Jacinto.

On March 2, 1836, Sam Houston and 58 other delegates (22 of which were Masons) at the small town of Washington-on-the-Brazos drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence from Mexico.

The Alamo fell on March 6, 1836 to the Mexican Army after a 13-day siege. Several Masonic brothers were among the defenders of the Alamo that gave their lives for Texas independence. Those that have been identified were James Bonham, James Bowie, David Crockett, Almaron Dickenson, and William Barrett Travis.

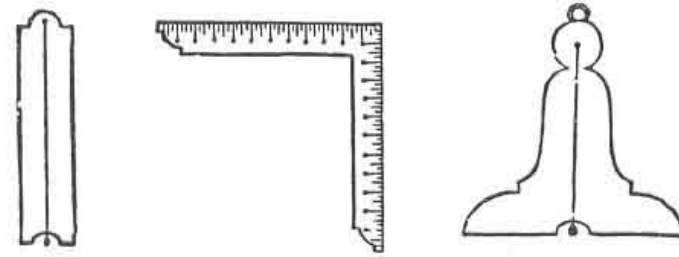
March 6, 1836 was also the day when Sam Houston, another Masonic brother, was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Army and took command of the troops.

On Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836, Goliad had its most famous and most tragic moment as Brother James W. Fannin along with 329 prisoners were executed by explicit orders from Santa Anna.

Looking Forward

- The Alamo Observance is Saturday, March 3rd.
- The Goliad Observance is Saturday, March 24th.

William Lewis, Worshipful Master



Brother Travis' Letter from the Alamo

In the days leading up to the Battle of the Alamo, Brother William B. Travis wrote the following letter requesting assistance and reinforcements, which was later reprinted in newspapers around the country.

Commandancy of the The Alamo
Bejar, Feby. 24th. 1836

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World
—
Fellow Citizens & compatriots—

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna — I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man — The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken — I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls — I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch — The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country —

Victory or Death.
William Barrett Travis.
Lt. Col. comdt.

Alamo Observance and Grand Master's Conference

EA's, FC's and families are welcome to each event – so please bring yours!

Masons will be meeting at the San Antonio Fire Museum, 801 E Houston, at 8:00 am on March 3rd for the Annual Alamo Observance. There will be hot coffee, juice, cookies, doughnuts and Fellowship.

We will form-up to walk to the Alamo at approximately 8:50 am and walk to the Alamo at 9:00 am for the Annual Observance. The Scottish Rite building will be used in case of inclement weather.

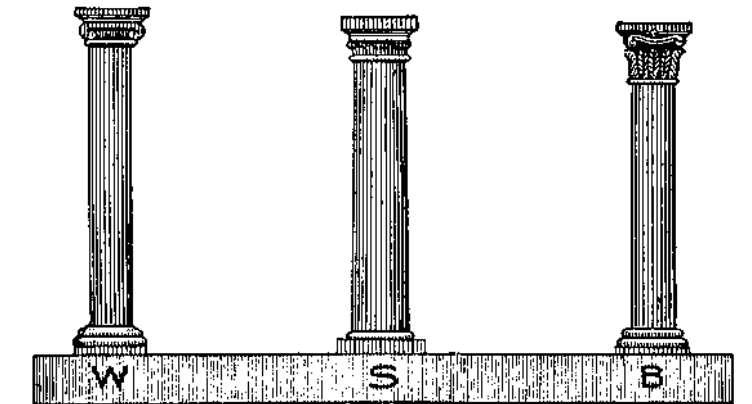
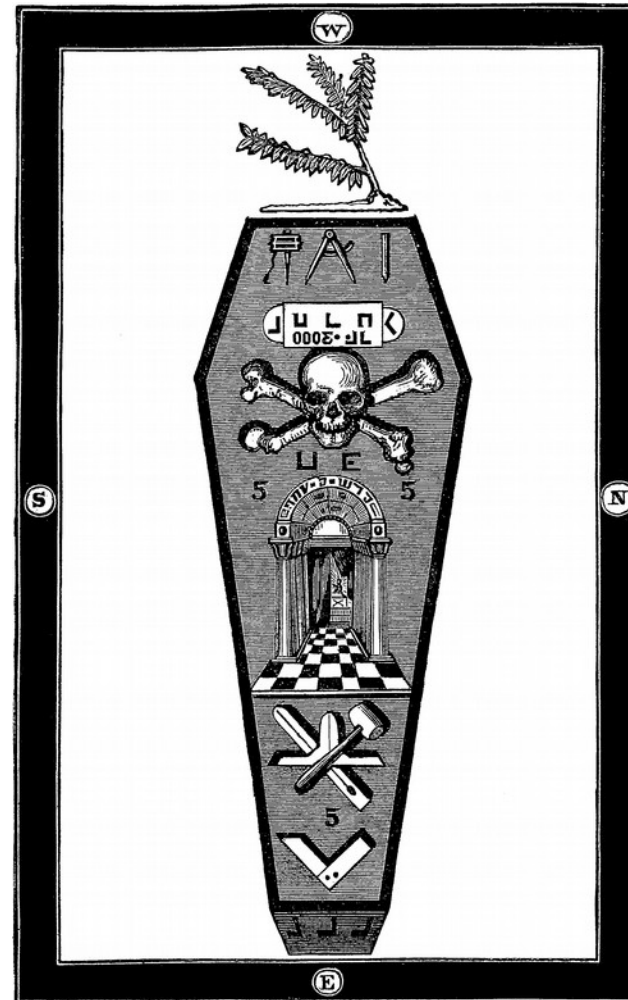
The Annual Masonic Youth Brunch at the Alzarfar Shrine Auditorium, 901 N. Loop 1604 West 78222, will begin at 11 am. Meal tickets are \$8 and will be available March 3, 2018.

The Grand Master's Conference will begin approximately at 1:00 pm. M. W. Tommy Chapman, Grand Master of Masons in Texas is looking forward to seeing you there!

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers as they seek comfort and healing. They are or have been ill, recovering from medical procedures or have limited mobility: RW T.K. Anthony, Walter Boyd, Jack Brassil, Johnnie Camarillo, Shawon Carroll (Jeff's brother), Thomas Carroll (Jeff's dad), Gerald & Zoey Curry, Glenn Dyess, Sidney Ellis, Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), Curtis Gilgan, RW Mike Gower, Reagan Hammett, Sam Hill, Freddie Hite, Arnold Holden, Ethel Johnson (Roland Brown's stepdaughter), Amy Karotkin, Johnnie Long, Thurman McGinnis, Tony & Gloria Moreno, Bob & Milly Oakes, Tom Peters, Joe Pickering, Tony Ramirez, Bertha Salinas, Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), David Solverson, Wanda Stewart, April Tinajero (Larry Haney's daughter), Bobby Tiner, and Ray Tiner.

If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact WM William Lewis or Chaplain Raul Scully, PM



SAMC Hospital Volunteers

During the month of January, 7 Masons, wives, and friends contributed over 153 hours assisting our friends and neighbors over at St. David's South Austin Medical Center.

The outstanding volunteers who made this possible are (in alphabetical order): Linda Boyd with 29 hours, Max Fisher with 21 hours, Norman Hayes with 3 hours, Larry Korts with 8 hours, Carl Robinson with 34 hours, Jeanine Robinson with 29 hours, and Bobby Tiner with 29 hours.

Thank you folks for a job well done!